APPENDIX A
HABITAT TYPE GROUPS

Habitat types, or potential vegetation groups, are a useful way to group lands capable of supporting similar plant communities in the absence of disturbance. Habitat types tend to have predictable patterns of disturbance, succession, and productivity, although topographic setting of the habitat type group (Vegetation Response Unit) may also strongly influence disturbance and forest succession.

Habitat Type Groups were developed for northern Idaho and western Montana to assist with landscape assessments within these areas. The habitat type systems used on the Nez Perce include those of Cooper et al. 1992 and Steele et al. 1981. The groups described here were developed by Applegate et al. 1995. Where field data were not available, the habitat type group was predicted for each vegetation polygon using a terrain model.

HTG 1 – WARM AND DRY PONDEROSA PINE AND DOUGLAS-FIR

These habitat types are characterized by dry and open-grown park-like stands of ponderosa pine or Douglas fir with bunchgrass understories. Ponderosa pine/bluebunch wheatgrass is the habitat type in this group most frequently found in the subbasin. These habitat types usually occur on steep southerly aspects at low elevations. They are of limited extent in the subbasin.

HTG 2 – MODERATELY WARM AND DRY DOUGLAS-FIR AND GRAND FIR

These habitat types are characterized by generally open-grown stands of ponderosa pine or Douglas fir with grass and brush understories. Douglas-fir/ninebark is the habitat type in this group most frequently found in the subbasin. Most of the sites occur at lower elevations on south or west aspects. They are common in the canyons of the Selway subbasin.

HTG 3 – MODERATELY WARM AND MODERATELY DRY GRAND FIR

These habitat types are rather variable, but characterized in the subbasin by mixed species stands of grand fir, and Douglas-fir, or lodgepole pine dominated stands with beargrass and huckleberry understories. Ponderosa pine and western larch occur less frequently. Grand fir/beargrass is the habitat type in this group most frequently found in the subbasin. These habitat types are common at mid elevations on ridges or rolling hills in the south and east parts of the subbasin.

HTG 4 – MODERATELY WARM AND MOIST GRAND FIR

These habitat types are characterized in the subbasin by mixed species stands of grand fir, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce and occasionally western larch or ponderosa pine, with diverse shrub and forb understories. Grand fir/Clintonia is the habitat type in this group most frequently found in the subbasin. These habitat types are common at mid elevations on north slopes and lower slopes in slope positions or geographic areas too dry for western red cedar.

HTG 5 – MODERATELY COOL AND MOIST WESTERN RED CEDAR

These habitat types are characterized by mixed species stands of western red cedar, grand fir, and Douglas fir, with diverse shrub and forb understories. Western white pine, larch, and ponderosa pine are less frequent components. Cedar/Clintonia is the habitat type in this group most frequently found in the subbasin. These habitat types are common in the western portion of the subbasin on lower slopes and northerly aspects, but become increasingly rare toward the headwaters.

HTG 6 – MODERATELY COOL AND WET WESTERN RED CEDAR

These habitat types are characterized by stands of grand fir and western red cedar. Douglas-fir and western white pine are less common. They often have fern and herb understories. Cedar/lady fern is the habitat type in this group most frequently found in the subbasin. These habitat types are generally limited to riparian areas along streams and moist lower slopes in the western part of the subbasin.

HTG 7 – COOL AND MOIST SUBALPINE FIR

These habitat types are characterized by stands of subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, and lodgepole pine, with brush understories. Western larch, whitebark pine, and Douglas-fir are less common components. Subalpine fir/menziesia is the habitat type in this group most frequently found in the subbasin. These habitat types are common and occur at upper elevations on north aspects and moist lower slopes.

HTG 8 – COOL AND WET SUBALPINE FIR

These habitat types are characterized by stands of subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, and lodgepole pine with shrub, forb or graminoid understories. Subalpine fir/bluejoint reedgrass is the habitat type in this group most frequently found in the subbasin. These habitat types are uncommon and occur at upper elevations in riparian areas.

HTG 9 – COOL AND MODERATELY DRY SUBALPINE FIR

These habitat types are characterized by stands of lodgepole pine, subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce with beargrass and huckleberry understories. Subalpine fir/beargrass is the habitat type in this group most frequently found in the subbasin. These habitat types are very common at upper elevations on ridges and southerly aspects.

HTG 10 – COLD AND MODERATELY DRY SUBALPINE FIR

These habitat types are characterized by open stands of whitebark pine, lodgepole pine, alpine larch and subalpine fir with understories of grouse whortleberry and smooth woodrush. The habitat type in this group most frequently found in the subbasin is subalpine fir/smooth woodrush. These habitat types are uncommon in the subbasin at high elevations on ridges.

HTG 11 – COLD WHITEBARK PINE AND SUBALPINE FIR

These habitat types are characterized by open stands of whitebark pine, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, and alpine larch with understories of smooth woodrush and grouse whortleberry. These habitat types are limited to high elevation ridges and upper slopes.

HTG 15 – GRASSLAND STEPPE

These habitat types are characterized by bunchgrass and forb communities. Bluebunch wheatgrass/Idaho fescue is the habitat type in this group most frequently found in the subbasin. These habitat types are limited to steep southerly aspects at low elevations with shallow or sandy soils.

HTG 30 – SHRUBLANDS

These habitat types are persistent alder dominated communities. They are of such limited extent in the subbasin that they are not mappable at a scale suited for this document. They occur most frequently in the western part of the subbasin above about 4500 feet elevation in concave depressions and on north aspects.

HTG 60 – MOUNTAIN BOTTOMLANDS

These habitat types are sedge meadows and wetlands dominated by sedge meadows and low shrubs. They are of such limited extent in the subbasin that they are not mappable at a scale suited for this document. They occur most frequently in meadow complexes in the headwaters of Meadow Creek, Goat Creek and on the margins of glacial lakes.

HTG 80 – ALPINE MEADOWS AND SCRUB

These habitat types are dominated by low shrubs and forbs, on rocky alpine ridges. They occur very infrequently at highest elevations along the Lochsa, Salmon, and Bitterroot divides.

HTG 0 - ROCK

HTG 98 - WATER